

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant's attorneys respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the instant application in view of the above amendments and following remarks, which place the application into condition for allowance.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1- 35 are pending in this application and are rejected in the Office Action mailed on September 5, 2007. By this Amendment, claims 1, 10, and 11 are amended. A typographical error was noted in claim 25 and is amended in this Amendment. Applicant's attorneys submit that no new subject matter has been introduced.

Support for the claim amendments can be found throughout the specification, for example, see paragraphs [0102], [0111], [0119], [0129], and [0124], and in figures 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, and 15 of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0033258 ("the instant application").

II. THE REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) AND 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-17, 20-22 and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,416,500 to Wada *et al.* ("Wada"). Claims 18, 19 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Wada in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,415,643 to Kolb ("Kolb"). Claims 23-35 are rejected under § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Wada in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,649,913 to Cohen ("Cohen"). The rejections are respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

As recited in amended claim 1, the instant invention is directed to

An absorptive product, which comprises an absorptive body that can absorb and retain a liquid and a flexible and liquid-impermeable trap portion to temporarily trap the liquid that is to be absorbed by this absorptive body, and that at least a part of said absorptive body and said trap portion are made to overlap, wherein said trap portion holds at least one end of said absorptive body in a pocket formed of at least a backup sheet, and wherein a cross section of said trap portion has said absorptive body.

(Emphasis added). Therefore, the absorptive body of the instant invention is present as a continuous, longitudinally oriented element positioned in trap portion. The instant absorptive body is present in the cross section of the trap portion.

In contrast, as presently understood by Applicants' attorneys, Wada discloses a section of the front wall in which the absorptive product is absent in the longitudinal direction. As recited in 3, lines 53-56 and column 7, lines 6-10 of Wada, "The front wall section f2 is provided substantially in its central zone with a region 7 extending transversely of the bag 1. The core 3b is absent in this region 7, i.e., the region 7 comprises parts of the base sheet 2 and the cover sheet []." (Emphasis added.) As recognized by the Examiner in the Office Action, the core 3b in Wada corresponds to the absorptive product of the instant application, and the bag 1 corresponds to the trap portion. Therefore Wada discloses a region of the trap portion in which no absorbent product is present. Accordingly, Applicants' attorneys respectfully submit that Wada fails to at least disclose or suggest an absorbent product continuously present in the longitudinal direction in the trap portion, and therefore respectfully request that the § 102 rejection be withdrawn.

Regarding the obviousness rejections based on Wada in combination with Kolb, Applicants' attorneys respectfully submit that Kolb fails to cure the deficiencies of Wada. As presently understood by Applicants' attorneys, Kolb is directed to an absorbent composite with a specific composition of superabsorbent material which allows the absorbent body to disintegrate

in water so that the body may be safely flushed. Accordingly, the disclosure in Kolb does not suggest an absorbent product present continuously in a trap portion. Therefore, Applicants' attorneys respectfully submit that Kolb fails to cure the deficiencies in Wada. Accordingly, Applicants' attorneys respectfully request that the Section 103 rejections based on Wada in view of Kolb be withdrawn.

Regarding the obviousness rejections based on Wada in combination with Cohen, Applicants' attorneys respectfully submit that Cohen fails to correct the deficiencies of Wada. As presently understood, Cohen discloses men's boxer shorts to direct and store urine in a pocket. Cohen discloses a pocket constructed of waterproof materials configured to store urine without wetting the man's body. Cohen, column 2, lines 6-10. However, Cohen fails to disclose the presence or use of any absorbent material in the direction and storage of urine in the disclosed pocket. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Cohen does not correct the deficiencies in Wada. Consequently, reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejections based on Wada in view of Cohen are respectfully requested.

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that revised independent claims 1, 27, and 28 patentably distinguish over the relied upon portions of Wada, Kolb, and Cohen, either alone or in combination, and are therefore allowable. Further, claims 2-26 and 36 that depend from claim 1, claims 29-34 that depend from claim 27, and claim 35 that depends from claim 28, are allowable as well.

Statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited references represent the present opinions of the Applicants' undersigned attorney and, in the event that the Examiner disagrees with any such opinions, it is respectfully requested that he Examiner

specifically indicate those portions of the respective reference providing the basis for a contrary view.

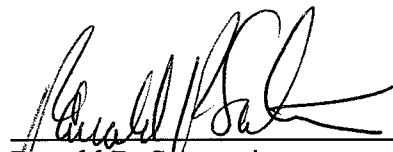
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable over the prior art. Accordingly, Applicant's attorneys respectfully request an early favorable consideration thereof.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,
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